

HOW FAR HAVE WE PROGRESSED?

Long before we can remember,
When the earth was fresh and new,
When a fellow wished to marry
Do you know what he would do?
No, it wasn't cream and candy,
Yet he never got a snub;
At one stroke he did the courting,
And he did it with a club.

Or if one became ambitious
And desired to be king,
It was counted very noble
When he killed off everything
That came in 'twixt him and glory;
That's too savage for to-day;
Men have grown refined and cultured,
And have learned a better way.

No, they don't let out the heart's blood
At one stab; they take it slow,
With a scientific finesse,
So the victim will not know
That they sap his heart's blood surely,
Make his pulse beat high or low;
For finance is like a faucet,
Can be turned on fast or slow.

Time, heredity and habit,
Three unchanged and fearful fates,
That wind off with steady fingers
What environment creates.
Time, heredity and habit,
Masters of the greatest school,
And survival of the strongest
Is their one and awful rule.

Though monopolies surround us,
Still men do their "luck" berate;
And the strongest set the prices,
And the principle makes hate.
'Twixt the classes, so the rich ones
Fear the humble, and they pay
Much in prisons, guns and soldiers,
To keep dangerous men away.

Individuals are helpless,
But, en masse, the people hold
Mighty power, would they see it,
To control both men and gold.
This supremacy of money,
Borne, and scarcely realized;
Yet we proudly call our country
Christain, free, and civilized.

Wichita, Kas.

—NAN W. HEALY.

The Highest Political Virtue.

Blind partyism is probably more responsible than anything else for our political woes. The man who says that "you can't legislate prosperity into existence" surely has not considered well. If legislation has nothing to do with individual prosperity or adversity, why do lobbyists congregate at the state and national capitols to favor or oppose any proposed legislation? Why don't the national bankers and the protected industries keep their lobbyists away from Washington and save the expense, if legislation has no connection with individual or corporate prosperity or adversity? The paid lobbyists of railroad, express, insurance and liquor corporations crowd the hotel corridors of the state capitols at heavy expense for the purpose of influencing legislation in favor of their special financial interests, or to induce legislators to oppose measures in the interests of the masses, if the proposed measures seek to curtail some special privileges enjoyed by such corporations on account of existing laws.

Unjust laws or the lack of just ones are the chief cause of multi-millionaires on one hand, and pauperism on the other. While some are tramps and paupers, because too lazy to work, this is not true of the masses. We have laws that actually license pauper-making institutions. And the proprietors—the brewers—are becoming millionaires. The masses are industrious; but the people who produce the bread and clothes, the necessities and comforts of life, are pinched with hunger and shivering with cold, while some who do not work are faring sumptuously every day, as a result of legislation that enables them to appropriate the results of the labor of others.

Before there can be any great reform, the people will have to withdraw their support from the demagogues and party heelers, and, if necessary, ignore all existing party lines, and bring out men pledged and bonded to carry out their will to the extent of their votes and influence. As long as the people lose their heads when the band wagon and campaign orator come around, corrupt party machinery will carry out the will of those who put up the money to nominate and elect men pledged to make

aws and interpret and execute them in the interests of the monied classes who too frequently manage political parties.

A Sacramento paper recently, in reply to the question, "For what purpose do parties exist?" said that "in the mind of a boss who makes politics a trade, parties are instruments for carrying his candidates into office. In the conception of ignorance, which usually adheres to a party through prejudice and stands by the name when the thing that name stood for has ceased to exist, parties mean a name for malice and spleen. To the demagogue who is seeking nomination for office at the hands of a party, the purpose for which they exist is to aid his ambition, to gratify his vanity and give him the run of the public cash drawer. To the patriot, a party is the instrument for the accomplishment of good to civil society." This same writer, therefore, very sensibly concludes that when a party "falls into the hands of a professional politician, and the machinery of the party is so manipulated by him that the candidates nominated simply represent his will, and the personnel of government is to be made up of his tools, then the purpose for which parties exist at all is defeated. The good citizen is not only not bound to obey the behests of his party, but in good morals is bound to see that candidates nominated in that way and for that purpose are defeated. When party fealty makes the voter a slave to the will of party managers, then partisanship becomes despicable. In short, when partisanship is inconsistent with good citizenship, it is the highest political virtue to cease to be partisan." This is true of any party. It's time to take off the party glasses, to think for self and determine to assist in breaking corrupt political machinery wherever and whenever found. No matter how good the principles a party may advocate, if the party machinery is corrupt the interests of the masses will be sacrificed to take care of the interests of the party bosses and those who purchase favors by contributing to the campaign funds. We must henceforth use more intelligence, independence, conscience and common sense at the ballot box.—*Journal of Agriculture, April 12.*

"Why Bonanza Farming Pays."

"Of the making of many books there is no end," said the imprisoned philosopher, and that, too, in the days when books had to be slowly pen-written, one by one, instead of printed with perfecting steam presses. His plaint sounds strangely like the wail of the tired book reviewer of modern days. "Books are bad enough," I have always said, "but they are milk and honey and a trip trout-fishing when compared with the average manufacturer's catalogue." I still hold to what I have said, simply because I dislike to eat my words after they get cold. But I do so now with an emphatic exception before me in the shape of a beautiful forty-page morsel entitled, "Why Bonanza Farming Pays." This little book is a genuine revelation. It not only shows the wonders of the printers' art, but the still more wonderful wonders of the American agriculture of the Columbian year.

Published by William Deering & Co., Chicago's big harvester manufacturer, it commemorates the famous Dakota harvest excursion made during the fair by the foreign commissioners.

If my memory serves me rightly, the word "bonanza" is a Spanish gold-digging term, denoting "a lucky find." If that be the case, the word is certainly applied with good reason to the wholesale wheat farmers of the Northwest, whose scientific methods of agriculture

are briefly described in this book. Not the least interesting feature of this book is its illustrations, most of which are direct photographic reproductions of bonanza harvest scenes, or portraits of such famous bonanza farmers as Oliver Dalrymple, A. R. Dalrymple, ex-United States Senator Casey, Governor Shortridge, Hon. H. F. Miller, Hon. Rollin C. Cooper, all of North Dakota, and a score of others.

A perusal of its pages brings the fact forcibly to mind that America owes its pre-eminence as a grain-growing country to the improvement of its agricultural machinery. The Dakotas, Minnesota, and other great grain-raising states owe their wealth and population to improved farm machinery, for, without such machinery, the cost for labor would eat up the profits on the crop. By using gang plows that plow half a dozen furrows at a time; by using broadcast drills that sow their forty acres a day, and Deering twine binders that cut and bind from twenty to twenty-five acres a day, these farmers are enabled to raise wheat at a small cost and to handle tens of thousands of acres with a comparatively small force of men. Take, for instance, the Grandin farm in Traill county, N. D., managed by Mr. A. R. Dalrymple, which, though not the largest in the state, is one of the best managed. Since the land was first broken, in 1875, the grand average yield of wheat has been over seventeen bushels per acre for the 1,600 acres under cultivation, with an average of thirty bushels in some years. This grain is cut with 180 Deering binders, each of which, cutting a swath seven feet in width, binds into sheaves about twenty acres a day. To harvest and thresh this crop requires a force of 250 men, while 150 men are employed the year around. Seventy gang plows, forty eleven-foot drills, thirty Deering mowers, seven large steam threshers, 300 head of horses and mules, and elevators with combined capacity of 300,000 bushels, are included in the equipment of this farm. Facts such as these give great value to this book. Farms such as these were visited by the foreign commissioners of the World's Fair, and the history of their tour and what they saw forms an interesting portion of this sample of the printers' art.

It is not difficult to guess that the answer to the implied question, "Why Bonanza Farming Pays," is found in the fact that bonanza farmers use the most modern implements for planting, cultivating and harvesting their immense crops. These machines permit the North Dakota farmer to pay heavy freight to Chicago, New York and London, and to sell in the European markets at a profit in competition with the Russian and Indian farmer, and that, too, in the face of the great difference in cost of farm labor in the two countries.

From the entertainment and instruction contained in this little book, and from the expensiveness of its make-up, one would naturally expect that its publishers would charge a good round price for it. On the contrary, they generously send it free to farmers.

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